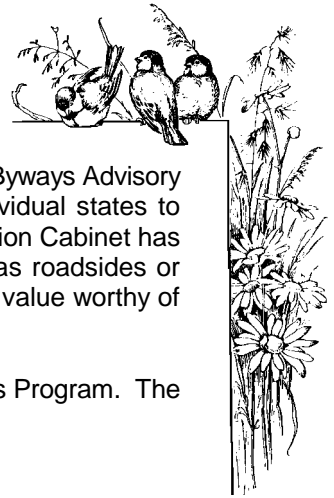


KENTUCKY'S SCENIC HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS



The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991 established a Scenic Byways Advisory Committee to develop a national scenic byways program. ISTEA further encouraged the individual states to institute state scenic byway programs. The Commonwealth of Kentucky through the Transportation Cabinet has initiated a Scenic Highways and Byways Program in Kentucky. A scenic highway or byway has roadsides or viewsheds with scenic (aesthetic), natural, cultural, historical, archaeological and/or recreational value worthy of preservation, restoration, protection, and enhancement.

The Transportation Cabinet has oversight responsibility for the Scenic Highways and Byways Program. The Cabinet serves to:

- Establish specific criteria for designation as a scenic highway or byway
- Review applications for designation to statewide scenic system
- Officially designate routes as part of statewide scenic system
- Oversee statewide signage and promotion (in cooperation with the Tourism Cabinet)
- Administer funds for projects related to the scenic system
- Be a central repository and clearinghouse for information
- Provide technical support
- Provide for safety and service of traveling public
- Ensure integrity of system through oversight and de-designation when appropriate
- Work with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to incorporate any applicable Kentucky scenic routes into the national network

The Transportation Cabinet envisions a Scenic Highways and Byways Program based on strong local and/or regional support and commitment. Applicant groups are to unite public and private support and resources along the route. They are to prepare the application for designation of the route as part of the state scenic program. Applicant groups will have primary responsibility for the ongoing monitoring of the scenic qualities of the view shed or adjacent land areas. Failure to act responsibly in this management role can result in the loss of the qualities which make the route scenic. Changes in the scenic character could result in removal of the designation as a scenic highway or byway.

Some of the benefits of designation are pride in local area, increased tourism, preservation of scenic qualities, and national marketing of area. The Tourism Cabinet will work with the Transportation Cabinet to market the Scenic Highways and Byways. The roads will be marked on the state map that is distributed nationwide, the designated roads will be promoted in the Travel Guide, and separate brochures will be distributed promoting the statewide scenic system. In the future, brochures may be prepared to promote different areas of the state or specific themes (i.e., horse farms, craft shops, etc.)

The Transportation Cabinet views the Scenic Highways and Byways Program as a unique opportunity for government, private citizens and organizations through cooperative efforts to protect the state's natural scenic resources, promote tourism, foster associated economic development, and maximize the potential of little traveled or bypassed roads.

Applications are accepted anytime. For further information about this program, contact Jay Hoskins or Cindy Griffin at (502) 564-7183 or write to:

Kentucky Scenic Highways and Byways Program
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
Division of Planning
Mail Code A-2
Frankfort, Kentucky 40622

